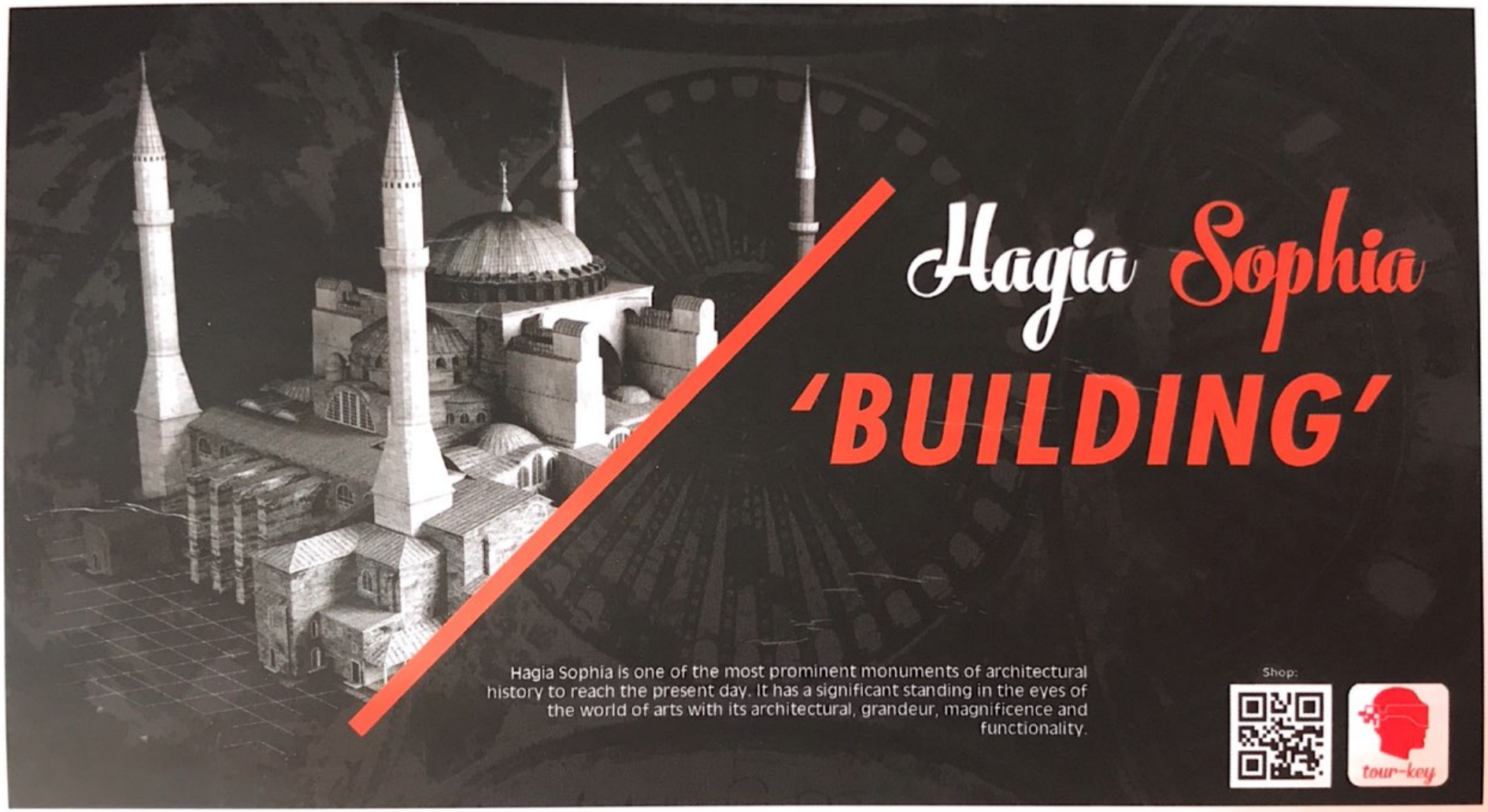
Hagia Sophia
'BUILDING'
Hagia Sophia is one of the most prominent monuments of architectural history to reach the present day. It has a significant standing in the eyes of the world of arts with its architectural, grandeur, magnificence and functionality.
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Hagia Sophia
'ALTAR'
The candelabras are places at both sides of the altar brought from the court church of the Hungarian King Matthias I by the Grand Vizier Ibrahim Pasha during the conquest of Buda by the Hungary run in the era of Suleiman the Magnificent.
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Hagia Sophia
'MARBLE COLUMNS'
Columns of the new structure were brought from the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Sun Temple in Egypt, and the Baalbek Temple in Lebanon among many others.
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رضي الله تعالى عنه
عمر الفاروق
Hagia Sophia
'PLATES'
There are 8 plates which read Allah, the Prophet Mohammad, the names of the four Caliphs (Ebubekir, Omar, Osman, Ali) and the grandsons of Mohammad (Hasan and Hussein). The plates were made of basswood so that they were lightweight and durable. These plates are known to be the largest ones in the Islamic world.
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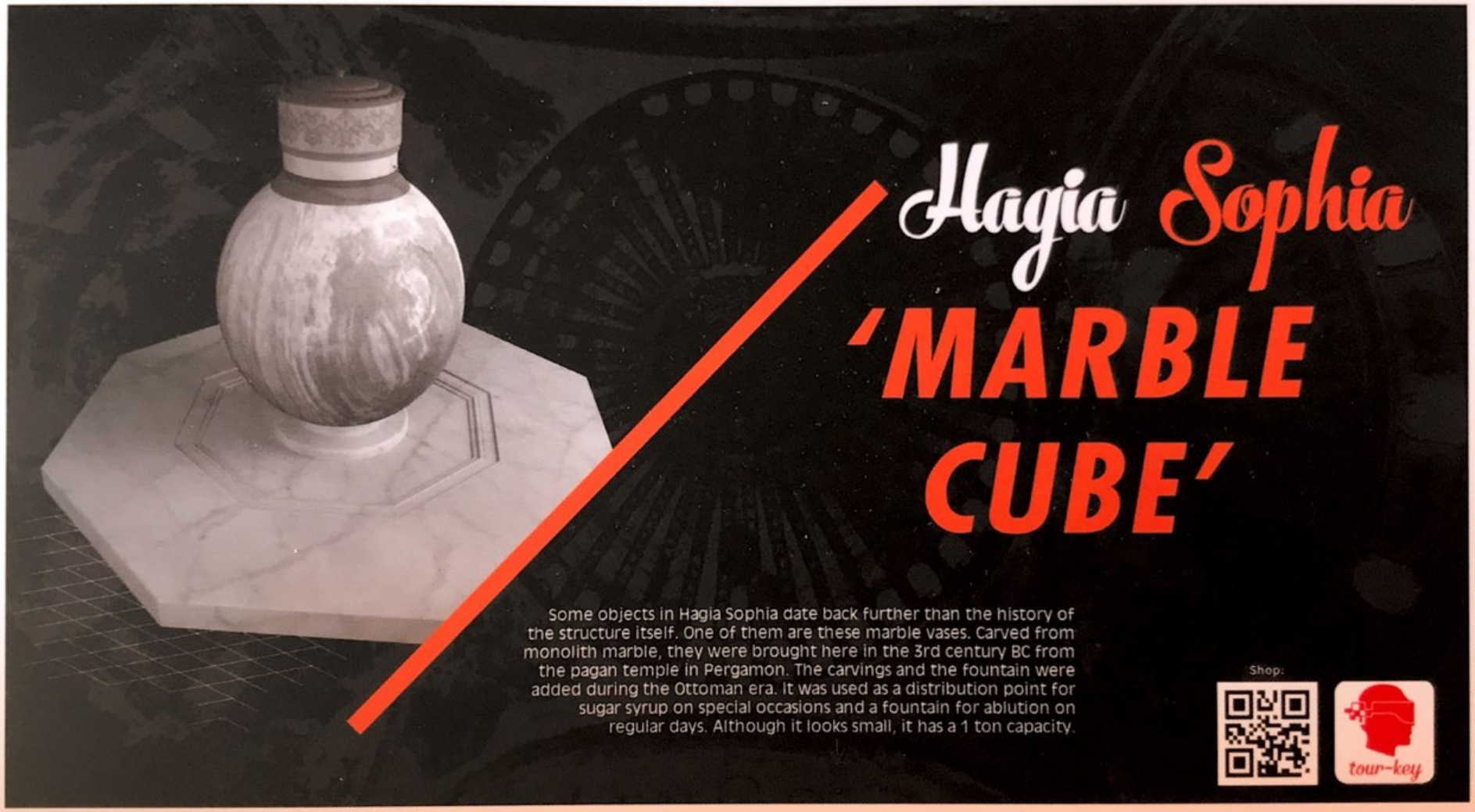
Hagia Sophia
'MARBLE CUBE'
Some objects in Hagia Sophia date back further than the history of the structure itself. One of them are these marble vases. Carved from monolith marble, they were brought here in the 3rd century BC from the pagan temple in Pergamon. The carvings and the fountain were added during the Ottoman era. It was used as a distribution point for sugar syrup on special occasions and a fountain for ablution on regular days. Although it looks small, it has a 1 ton capacity.
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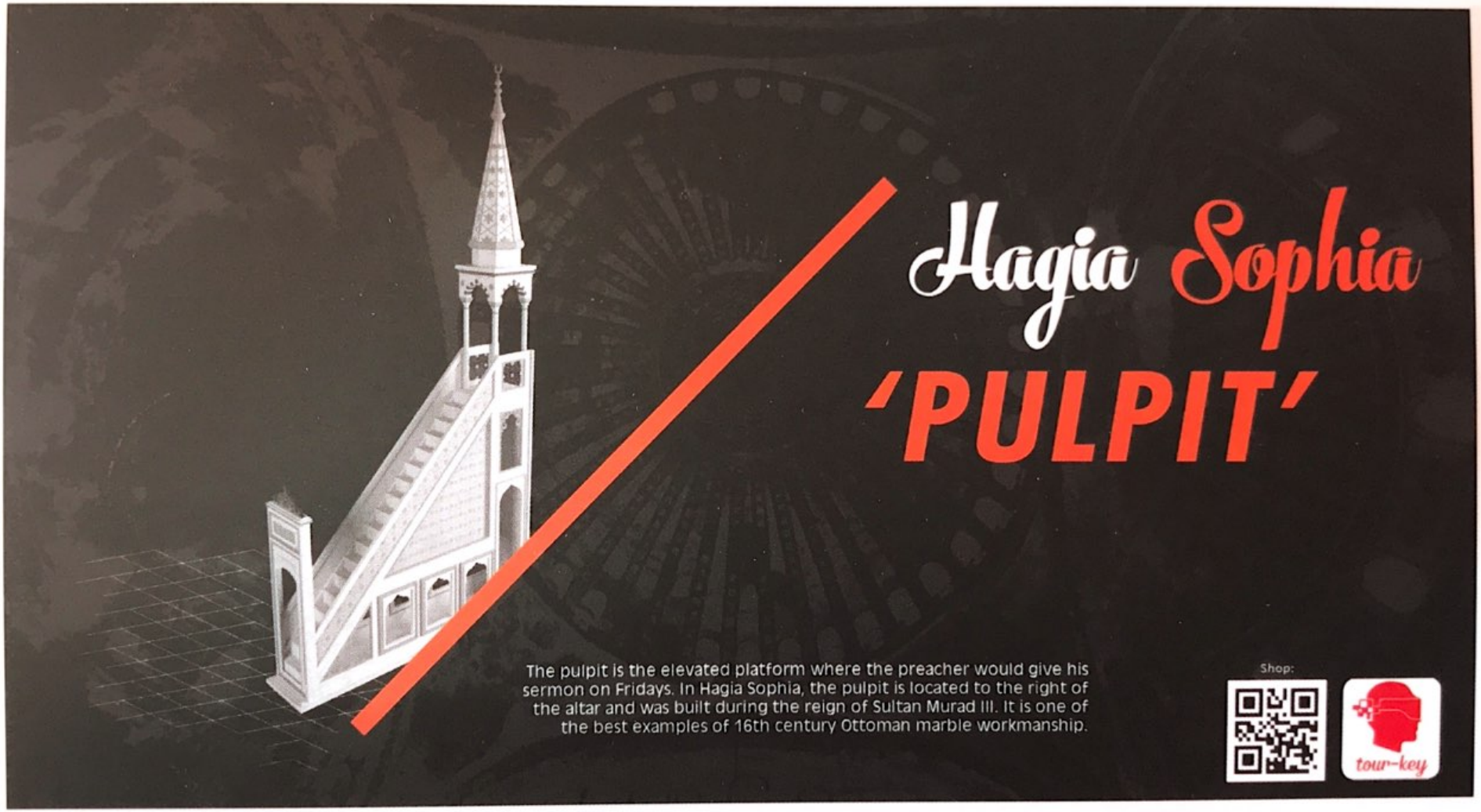
Hagia Sophia
'PULPIT'
The pulpit is the elevated platform where the preacher would give his sermon on Fridays. In Hagia Sophia, the pulpit is located to the right of the altar and was built during the reign of Sultan Murad III. It is one of the best examples of 16th century Ottoman marble workmanship.
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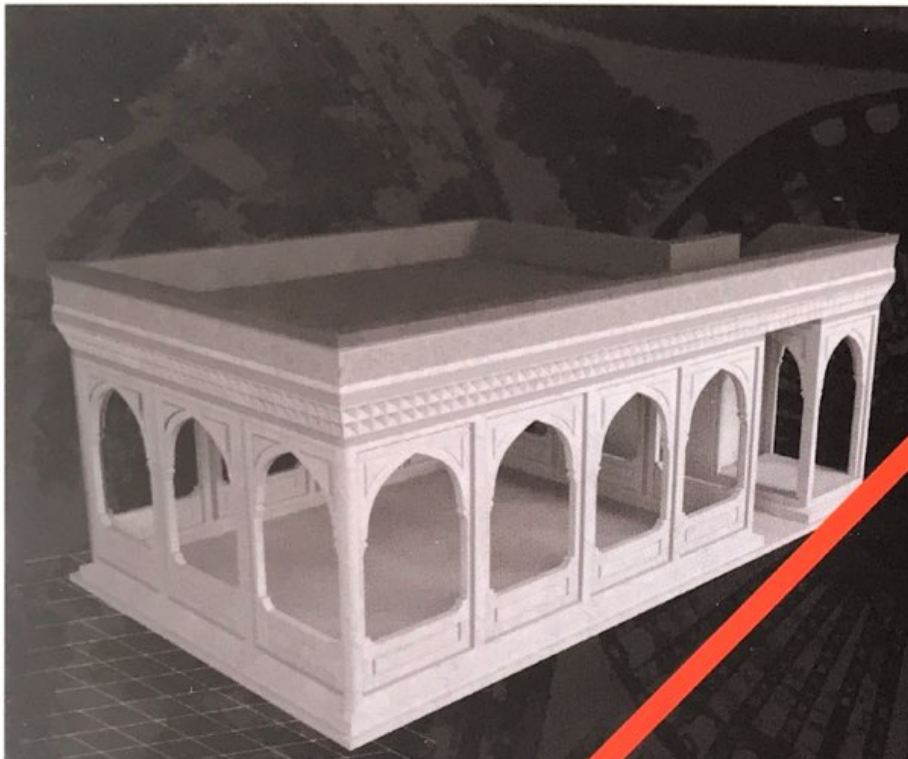

Hagia Sophia

'MUEZZIN'S BALCONY'

The muezzin's balcony, aligned with Mecca, is the section where the muezzin prays during worship. Hagia Sophia saw the construction of the great muezzin's balcony to the east of the main room during the reign of Sultan Murad III. This section has the best acoustics within the structure.

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Hagia Sophia

'EL-FETTAH KNOB'

"El Fettah" is one of the 99 names of Allah and means "that which bestows benevolence and livelihood to his subjects." Thus, the expression can be typically seen on Ottoman door handles and knobs.

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Hagia Sophia
'WISHING COLUMN'
Some sources state that Mary was so upset upon Jesus' ascension, that she cried. It is believed that she was by this marble while her tears were dropping and they fell on this piece.Today, people make wishes here by sticking their thumb in the hole of the plate and fully turning it clockwise.
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